

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as indicated below:

1. (Twice Amended) A [mold support] platen adapted to be slidably carried on at least one rail of an injection molding machine, said platen comprising:

a substantially rectangular front face specifically adapted to carry a mold half;

a back face parallel to and spaced from said front face specifically adapted to interface with at least one clamp column, said clamp column configured to produce a [clamping] clamp force substantially in the center of said back face and applying a force substantially perpendicular to said front face;

a wall [having a predetermined thickness and height protruding] extending rearward from the periphery of said front face;

a plurality of spaced apart ribs extending in a predetermined pattern between and interconnecting each of said back face, said wall and said front face, wherein said [force from said clamp] clamp force applied by said clamp column is substantially uniformly transmitted from said back face to said front face thereby creating a uniform sealing pressure distribution during clamp-up.

3. (Twice Amended) The [mold support] platen of claim 1, further including clearance for the passing of a plurality tie-bars the length of said injection molding machine, said plurality of tie-bars not supporting said platen.

5. (Twice Amended) The [mold support] platen of claim 4, wherein said first and second stiffeners are substantially [t-shaped] T-shaped and further attach to said wall.